Production of Vegetables in Himachal Pradesh

*379. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) in view of shortage of vegetables in Himachal Pradesh and its high cost, whether Government propose to modernise the methods of production of vegetable with lesser cost;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plan to bring such production activities under Agro-Industries to take up production in large scale in Himachal Pradesh;;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of vegetables reported in Himachal Pradesh. No unusual rise except seasonal fluctuations in prices of vegetables during winter has been reported. For modernisation of production, aiming at Higher cost benefit ratio, research is being conducted by Indian Council of Agricultural research and State Agricultural Universities.

(c) to (e) Production of vegetables is being promoted under Integrated Projects being financially supported by National Horticulture Board, Department of Food Processing Industries and National Cooperative Development Corporation under which assistance is being provided for production, post harvest as well as processing.

Sister States Relationship Between Andhra Pradesh and New Jersey

*380. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action taken to issue clearance for Sister States relationship between Andhra Pradesh and New Jersey in economic, cultural and tourism development?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Andhra Pradesh Government had proposed entering into a